

Geneseo College Senate Statement on the War and Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

The SUNY Geneseo College Senate condemns the unjustifiable full-scale invasion of Ukraine launched by the Russian leadership. We stand with the people of Ukraine as they resist this aggression and care for their loved ones. The unnecessary suffering and loss resulting from this war is horrifying.

The Russian state's violent, deadly, and destructive attempts to redraw borders, overthrow governments, control civil society, besiege cities, and threaten civilians is part of an alarming trend: a growth of authoritarian movements across the globe which threatens the international order. We endorse the [Statement on Ukraine](#) by the American Association of Colleges and Universities, including its emphasis on the critical role that higher education, and liberal arts education in particular, can play in guarding against this rise of authoritarianism.

We call on both the College at Geneseo and the SUNY system to:

- Support current and potential students from Ukraine whose lives have been disrupted, or worse, by this war and humanitarian crisis. This should include offering reduced or free tuition, as has been done in previous crises. Assistance should be provided as needed to students from throughout that region, including our Russian and Belarusian students whose academic progress is negatively affected by this crisis.
- Support academic colleagues from Ukraine, including positions for displaced Ukrainian scholars, which could be remote.
- Showcase the scope and value of research, expertise, and scholarly debates within Geneseo on the history, geopolitics, political economy, and cultures of Ukraine, its neighbors, and its region.

We call on the Foundation Board to review Geneseo Foundation investments and divest any holdings from enterprises and companies that do business in Russia or support the Russian government.

Additionally, we call on the College at Geneseo to establish a fund, supported through charitable donations, which is dedicated to the support of students displaced by crises to attend the College. While students forced out of Ukraine may be the most immediate beneficiaries, we anticipate that in the future there will be other students who are unable to be in their homeland, whether due to war, oppression, or natural disasters.